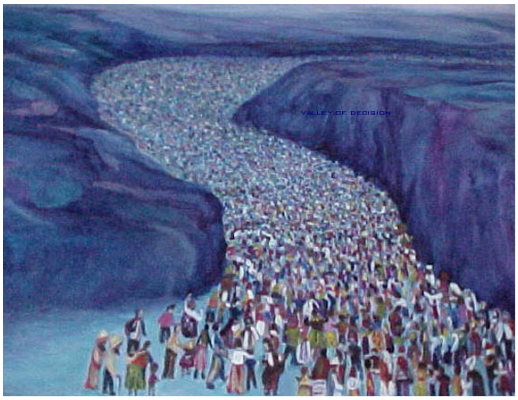
We Who Are Sinners



> **For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.**
> **1 Corinthians 11:31 (KJV)**

As part of my ministry I try to warn others who have fallen into and been deceived by bad doctrine. I have touched on this somewhat before in articles like **"We are Not Basically Good"** but now I feel I have to get a little more frank on the matter. God has shown me that a great deal of the opposition we face when trying to warn others is the direct result of one fact: Anyone who dares to try to reprove and warn others is perceived as judging, because those that they warn adamantly refuse to judge themselves.

> **This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**
> **1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)**

The result of neglecting to judge ourselves is the subtle doctrines of devils creep into our lives and slowly erode our relationship with Christ, which is precisely what they are designed to do.

When dealing with those who believe the false doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved" there are specific problems that I come across. There is often a certain path of logic at work where one lie enforces the other.

- God Hates Sinners.
- I Am No Longer a Sinner.
- I Have Justified Myself by My Decision to Become a Christian.

This thinking is so foreign to the Christian life we can only surmise that those who believe they are not sinners have never properly applied the work of the cross to their lives. This can lead to fascinating insights into the sin nature we all share. In ministering to these I have had them quote **Romans 9:1** and actually try to tell me it means that we are incapable of sinning as Christians! Or others may admit to what amounts to sin, but hide it under euphemisms like "I stumble on occasion" or "I'm not perfect" never calling it what it really is, sin. Such is the detachment of some of us from our inherent sin nature.

> **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**
> **1 John 1:8 (KJV)**

To think we no longer have sin is to think we are now worthy of salvation, in fact it is to think that we no longer need Christ. Yes, Christ's work on the cross washes away our sins, but it is not perpetual. It is retroactive, but not proactive. He paid the price for our future sins, but we must come boldly to the throne of grace as often as needed to obtain that forgiveness (**Hebrews 4:16**).

> **According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we**

should be holy and without blame before him in love:
Ephesians 1:4 (KJV)

If it were some decision we've made to follow Christ that caused us to stop being sinners then we have in fact played a part in saving ourselves. We cannot even take credit for choosing Christ, for the truth is that He chose His people, not us choosing Him. We don't choose Him, but simply become aware that He has chosen us. We believe by faith that we are among the chosen and act in accordance (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:15-16 (KJV)

As can be plainly deduced by the wording of this scripture, unlike us our savior Jesus Christ is the only one to inhabit this earth in a sinless condition. Our sins are forgiven us, but we are still guilty of them. We are not declared "Not Guilty!" but given a reprieve or pardon through Christ's shed blood. This is a truth we must embrace, no matter how unpleasant it may be.